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Newsletter #127:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

I hope everyone had a good week. In the auction world there is quite a bit happening now and even more coming up. I've just received an incredibly heavy box of NAC catalogs. There are two small sales so the actual auction won't be as laborious and exhausting as carrying that box to my car! Both sales are small in size but large in stature. See below for more information. The Long Beach show is happening right now for those of you on the West Coast. I'm not attending but trying to gather my strength for my upcoming trip to Europe which will consist of lots of coin viewing and auctions. In addition to the large auctions that occur in the Fall there also are countless electronic auctions in which many have lots numbering in the thousands. The hardest part for collectors is to navigate through all the clutter (and there is a lot of that too) and find the right pieces. I hope I can help make some of that easier.

Upcoming Fall Auctions

I'd like to focus on the auctions that I will attend in the coming weeks in Europe. I will be viewing and participating live in the below auctions. I'll feature Roma and NAC this week. Next week I'll discuss Künker and Gorny & Mosch.

Roma XVIII (29 Sept)

Roma is hosting their 18th live auction in the glamorous "The In & Out Naval and Military Club" located at St. James Square. There are 1,367 lots in this catalog and a few stand out collections being offered. The first part of the catalog (255 coins) is dedicated to the Hermann Lanz Collection. This is the second part (part one was one year ago at their 17th live sale) of the vast Celtic coin group that Prof. Lanz assembled over his life. Lanz passed away in 1998 but his son Hubert is well known in the numismatic community and was a successful coin dealer. Lanz' collection would be classified as esoteric by most but if you like Celtic coins than you must look at this sale. There are

some interesting types with an abundance of good pedigrees. Check out some of the fantastic imagery on the silver. Crude styles but absolutely fascinating (example is lot 42 which shows a great rendition of a harpy).

The William Stancomb collection follows the Lanz collection. You can read a nice biography of Stancomb's life and how he ended up pursuing his love for coins from the Black Sea area. William Stancomb is very well known in numismatic circles, especially as his collection has been memorialized for time in an SNG hard bound publication. Many of these coins are plate coins from that book. In addition there are some of the finest coins from that region in this collection. Coins from the Black Sea have been plagued by forgeries so buying them has always been a bit risky by collectors and dealers alike. This group of coins does not fall into that category. Most of the coins are moderately estimated and affordable. A great opportunity!

The third collection is from Dr. Nick Lowe and consists of Roman coinage. These coins are sprinkled throughout the remaining catalog and are typically high grade and often with additional pedigrees.

Roma is again offering a nice small group of Juba II/Cleopatra Selene from the El Ksar Hoard of 1907. This small but beautiful group has been extremely popular in the last few live and mail bid sales. These coins are not as common as one would think since Roma has several one after the other creating a false impression of it being more available.

The Roma catalog is one that shouldn't be ignored this Fall. It offers quite a bit of interesting and pedigreed pieces.

NAC 116 and 117 (1 Oct)

NAC has two small catalogs consisting of 364 coins. This is in contrast to last year when it took me several days just to view the coins. That said, catalog 116 is the first of what will likely end up being a large offering of Greek coins. The nameless collector known as "a man in love with art" is very clearly known to almost everyone involved in the ancient numismatics world. The coins in catalog 116 are beautiful, pedigreed and worth consideration. The estimates are strong however and it is not for the faint of heart. A lot of collectors will be shut out of this auction because of the competition but it is still worth trying if you see something of interest. Some will notice the "Prospero" pedigree popping up often. The Prospero Collection, which took place in 2012 through the cooperation of the New York Sale XXVII, was a highly successful auction. It has gone down in history however as one of the more frustrating of auctions among collectors and dealers as our "man in love with art" purchased the lionshare of the coins and at extravagant prices. Unfortunately the name Prospero is associated with out of line hammer prices. I hope this will not distract from the bigger picture which is that these coins should not be ignored. The family of the now deceased collector will likely lose money on the resale of his coins. The good news is that hopefully they will be more attainable for those with the means to purchase them.

Auction 117 starts out with a nice group of Indian Gupta Empire gold coinage. Many of these are pedigreed and since the 1990's. It follows with a sizeable group of Roman aurei under the title "The Collection of Roman Gold Coins of a Retired Banker". You'll notice lots of pieces from more recent auctions but all of extremely high quality.

Coin of the Week

ROMAN REPUBLIC. L. Papius. Rome, c. 79 BC

AR Serrate Denarius, 3.87g (19mm, 6h). Head of Juno Sospita right; tanner's knife behind / Gryphon prancing right; scraper beneath.

Comes with export license from Italy

References: Crawford 384/1. Sydenham 773. Papia 1

Grade: Nice, sharp example with cabinet toning. EF

Price: \$1,475

rr1092



Buy Coin

There is very little known about the moneyer L. Papius but we can possibly argue that he was from the town of Lanuvium. Lanuvium is modern day Lanuvio, which is about 19 miles outside of Rome. Lanuvium is famous for being the birthplace of the emperors Antoninus Pius and Commodus. The patron deity of Lanuvium was Juno Sospita, otherwise known as Hera for the Greeks. She was typically shown wearing a goat skin headdress which was a form of protection for the Romans. This can be compared to the aegis of Athena which was considered a form of special protection and mystical in nature.

<https://www.shannaschmidt.com/roman-repucluc/roman-republic-l-papius-rome-c-79-bc?rq=rr1092>

If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. · 805 Lake Street, PMB 321 · Oak Park, Illinois 60301-1031 · USA

